THE LEMON GROVE REVIEW

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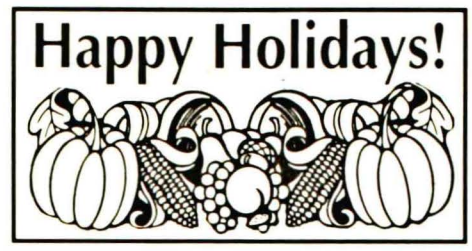

Vol. 51, No. 25 | Serving Lemon Grove and nearby communities | Thursday, November 26, 1998

Holiday Reading Issue: *The Showcase Writers*

Founded more than 30 years ago as the La Mesa Writers, the Showcase Writers group has been sponsoring contests and providing a forum for local writers to express themselves through the written word while keeping their sights on their founding purpose: to encourage creative writing.

Showcase Writers was founded in La Mesa by a group of local writers and was originally a La Mesa-oriented group. The group met a few times before deciding that, along with their meetings, they would also sponsor a local writing contest.

With the contest pulling from more than just La Mesa, the group became the Showcase Writers and extended its boundaries to include all of San Diego County.

As the years have passed and the group has moved from its original meeting place at a little cottage near Memorial Drive to the community center across the road, the membership and participation has declined as well.

"Used to get a lot more than we do now," said Ruby Becker, a longtime member of the group.

Fewer members and the group no longer combining the contest winning stories into an anthology are the major changes which have occurred over the past 30 years.

"We had trouble selling the books. We'd go in the hole every time," Becker said. "We're still trying to sell old copies."

The group would give out free copies to the winners and major contributors and then try and sell the rest of the run to the public. By the time they finished handing out the contributor's copies, however, everyone who would want to buy a copy already had one.

The decline in membership also made it hard to establish a committee to work on the anthology.

"We got tired of it," said Becker. "Too much stress. Too much work for a few people."

The Showcase Writers still sponsors one contest a year, comprising three story and two poetry categories. Adult, articles and children's stories are accepted as well as serious and humorous poetry. Writers are allowed one submission in each category.

The contest generally is open between March and June and then judges from the community, such as teachers, librarians and journalists — anyone with a little background in writing — are given two weeks to read and judge the material.

The winners are recognized at an awards night where they are presented with trophies and certifi-

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1st Place Adult Fiction

Mexican Coffee

by Howard Fisher

Not everybody gets to be a hero. Ancient knights on white chargers long ago killed off all the dragons. I remember being modest about my first solo flight, and wearing my helmet and goggles to the movies.

During World War II, I made sure my pilot's cap was properly crushed so people would know I was a pilot. I stood around modestly at parties wearing my leather flight jacket with a pair of gold wings stamped on the left chest.

The nearest thing to a dragon I ever met was a six-inch lizard that wandered into the kitchen and scared the shriek out of my wife. My next door neighbor said I must have told her share of the national debt.

I trapped the lizard under a plastic bucket and released him in the flower bed with a firm admonition that if he couldn't stand the shriek, stay out of the kitchen.

After World War II, I flew fishermen from San Diego to Bahia de Los Angeles, Baja California, Mexico. That was before red tape, civilization and bureaucrats made it illegal. Later, as opportunity permitted, I flew down alone in my Stinson to fish for my own pleasure.

Bahia de Los Angeles is a primitive village of about 100 people on one of the most beautiful bays in the world. A fishing camp operated by Antero (Papa) and Mama Diaz catered to those few Americanos who could fly or charter an airplane. The air strip was along the beach. If you flew low over the water, the village kids would run out and shoo the burros off the runway.

A few hundred yards up the hill is one of the loneliest cemeteries in the world, headstones with weathered carvings of names and dates going back 300 years and graves of children who never made it to adulthood.

Antero and Mama Diaz provided cabins, boats and boatmen, and operated a kitchen and dining room out of their home for the few Americanos who knew the place was there.

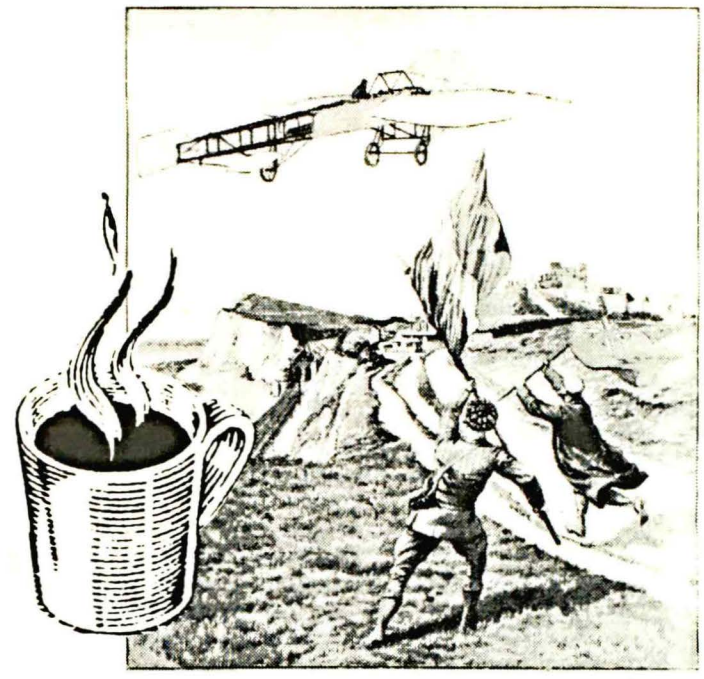
Mama Diaz made the best coffee in the world, Mexican highland beans roasted the day before and ground fresh that morning by a teen-age girl clutching a metate (mortar) in her lap and both hands grinding and pounding the beans with a stone mano (pestle).

One morning, I walked up the beach from my cabin to Mama's kitchen and found two San Diego physicians in discussion over a sick 9-year-old girl. Her mother had brought her to Mama Diaz for help. They diagnosed her illness as acute appendicitis.

Bahia de Los Angeles had no medical facilities, no doctors (except on those rare occasions when Medicos Americanos flew there to fish) and very little else in the way of modern conveniences.

The doctors agreed that this child must go to a hospital for immediate surgery or she would die.

Antero put her father in touch with the little girl's uncle in Ensenada by radio-telephone. The uncle agreed to meet the airplane and take her to the hospital if someone would fly her to Ensenada.



"Señor," Antero asked me, "would you fly the little girl and her parents to Ensenada?" I would. Fishing could wait.

But the parents were deathly afraid to ride in an airplane.

After much discussion in voluble Spanish, the mother's tearful pleas, the little girl's remaining hours of life ticking away, it was agreed that I would fly her to Ensenada and her parents would follow by truck.

I remember feeling concerned for the child who was already sick and probably as afraid of airplanes as were her parents. They put her in the right hand seat of the Stinson and fastened the seat belt.

It is approximately four hours in the Stinson from Bahia de Los Angeles to Ensenada over some of the most rugged, desolate land in the Western Hemisphere. The airplane carried four hours and 10 minutes of fuel. It was standard practice to refuel at Hamilton Ranch.

One of the doctors spoke to me in English just before I started the engine. "Get her there fast. If her appendix bursts, she won't make it."

People who know everything but how to fly can always tell a pilot how to do it.

Even though I had not paid the preacher the previous Sunday — in fact, I hadn't even gone to church — God gave me a bit of tail wind and I elected to fly non-stop to Ensenada.

To compound matters for the little girl, she got airsick. There was no sick bag in the airplane and she struggled valiantly not to throw up. I gave her my bill cap, hoping it wouldn't leak, and made signs for her to use it. She filled it, then leaned back ashen-faced. Once, I thought she wasn't breathing. I felt her pulse, faint, but steady. Wonderful! She was still alive.

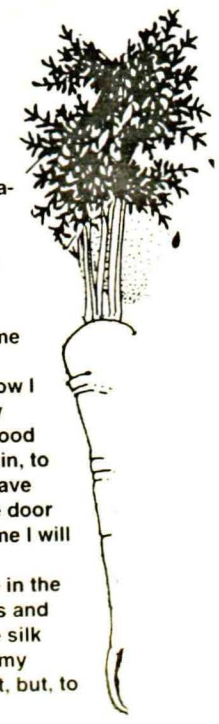
I flew at optimum altitude, full throttle, the leanest possible mixture, and watched the fuel gauge. I reconsidered Hamilton Ranch. If I stopped, the child would likely not make it. It always took an hour or more for the men at Hamilton Ranch to refuel an airplane. If I ran out of fuel, neither of us would make it.

Continued on Page 2

1st Place Humorous Poetry

Today's Special

by Susanne Riddle-Haslinger



Double fudge ice cream scooped deep into cones; thin layers of pastry, buttered wafers called scones; chocolate chip cookies and banana cream pie are a few of the things that I cannot deny. M&M candies, so small and so bright or warm, velvet taffy called Turkish Delight; New York style cheesecake and buttered rum cake, all make my taste buds just shiver and quake.

Just talking about them makes me feel sad, for these delectable goodies are calorically bad. At least, that is what all my clothes tell me now, I'm starting to look quite like Daisy the cow. I struggle in panty hose labeled "My Size," then eat tapioca to drown out my cries. I know I should lose weight and go on a diet. I know how to do it, I've already tried it! I've tried eating healthy. I've tried eating light. I've even put food completely out of my sight! I've battled and struggled to be slim again, to look normal and decent and down to one chin! I know I can do it, I have done it before. Just take one step at a time and unlock the door. The door that's been closed to my dresses size 10, I'm sure I can do it, this time I will win!

Stuffed baked potatoes and coffee ice cream will just have to live in the place called a dream. Once again, I will learn to say NO to those pies and when I look in the mirror, I'll see truth, no more lies! I will look at the silk pants I haven't worn in five years and will think positively and bury my fears. Pecan pie topped with whipped cream may have its own merit, but, to people like me, we must make friends with the carrot!

Showcase

Continued from Page 1

weeks to read and judge the material.

The winners are recognized at an awards night where they are presented with trophies, certificates and the honor of wining and being recognized.

The target audience of the contest is primarily adults, seniors in high school or older and the winners can be of all ages.

Aside from the contest, the Showcase Writers meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 1:15 pm. The meetings consist of a read and critique setting open to all writers who want to be heard and receive feedback.

"It's a place to be heard," said Becker. "We promote improved creative writing."

There is no teaching at the meetings, and it is not a classroom.

"Some want to be taught; we don't do that. We critique and you can learn that way, but it's not teaching," said Becker.

The meetings are during the day at a time when most younger people can not make it, resulting in the group being comprised of mostly older writers, though there have been a few younger faces recently.

When the group was starting out a lot of the members used to attend a poetry circle as well. They formed somewhat of an alignment with another group. The numbers of the poetry group dwindled below five at times and now the Showcase Writers are no longer associated with any other writing groups.

"In the poetry group you could read your own poetry or other published poets. Here it is something self-written," Becker said.

The Showcase Writers hope to increase membership in the future and a few members are pushing for the anthology again. Writers are welcome to visit the group twice before deciding whether or not they wish to participate.

"Still the main purpose is to have a place to read," said Becker. "We just want to encourage people to write more."

— Jason Williams

Mexican Coffee

Continued from Page 1

Matching the hands of my watch to the chart, I overflew Hamilton Ranch, realizing that if the wind changed, I might have to land on a road somewhere with a dying child, and not enough Spanish to explain the problem to a passing motorist. I asked God if he could give me just a little more tail wind. He did — just a tad.

I landed in Ensenada with the fuel gauge ticking on empty. The uncle was waiting. "Madre de Dios," he said as he ran with the sick child to his car.

I deposited the hat and its contents into an empty trash barrel, refueled the Stinson and returned to Bahia. Except for the hat, I might have forgotten that flight as the experience receded into my somewhat discolored past.

Twenty years later, I again visited Bahia de Los Angeles and walked up the beach to Mama Diaz's kitchen for a mug of her Mexican coffee and a bit of nostalgia.

Several women helped Mama fix breakfast for a dozen Americanos who were comparing exploits in the dining room, waiting impatiently for scrambled eggs and turtle steaks.

Mama poured a mug of steaming coffee and gave it to one of the women who brought it to me and stood there to watch me drink it. Mama asked, "You know thees lady?"

I had to say, "I'm sorry, I don't."

"You safe her life. Thees lady is little girl you fly to Ensenada 20 year ago. Appendice burst on way from airport to hospital. Una hora mas tarde maybe too late." She added, "Posiblemente minutos."

The lady called her two small sons to show me and spoke in rapid Spanish. I caught only two words, "esposo" and "sombrero".

"She is tell you," Mama translated, "her husband promise, if he ever see you, he give you his sombrero. She tell him what she do in your hat. If you no fly her to Ensenada, she no be here to give you coffee. She be up on hill. Thees two boys no be here either."

I don't remember the names of the doctors who just happened to be in Bahia that morning. I do remember the bravery of the little girl who rode in an airplane with an Americano stranger, even though she must have been deathly afraid.

Mama Diaz said, "You safe her life," but there was Antero's miraculous radio-telephone, the uncle waiting at the airport, the unknown surgeons and nurses in the Ensenada hospital and Mama Diaz's coffee which had lured me to her kitchen in the first place.

There was Charles Lindbergh, who inspired me to learn to fly instead of selling vacuum cleaners or learning the piano, either of which would have paid better.

And then there was God, who gave me a tail wind, even though I hadn't paid the preacher.

Antero has gone to his ancestors. Mama Diaz, at last report, lives in Ensenada. Her children, those who aren't "up on hill" are scattered to the world.

The lizard still lives in my flower bed, and he is now 18 inches long. I've wondered what he would look like if, like his ancestors, he was 60 feet tail and weighed 600 tons. I call him Jurassic to keep up his morale.

The straw hat hangs in my closet.

I know it's too late, but I wish, just once more, I could walk up the beach to Mama's kitchen for a mug of that delicious Mexican coffee.

1st Place
Children's Fiction

Spider's First Party

by John Thomas

With a warm summer coming
In the cool month of May,
Papa and I
Left to go far away.

A German vacation
Away from our home.
Away from my garden,
Away from the stone.

Whereon sat a spider
And hearing the news,
He wove a long web
With no time to lose.

Then he sent out a message
"They've gone on their way.
A German vacation
So, come out and play!"

And just as the door
To our condo was locked,
The spider was startled
By a small but firm knock.

He answered his door
At the base of the fence
And, to his surprise,
There stood all his friends

There was Jeffry and Joey,
Lucy and Lynne.
He hugged each in turn,
And invited them in.

Charles and Billy,
Clara and Jane.
They all came in dancing
As Jan and George sang.

There was Lisa and Jacob,
Issac and Rick.
Jack couldn't come
Because he was home sick.

But all the rest came,
From near and from far.
By airplane and boat,
By bus and by car.

By mail! Some in packages,
Envelopes too!
Richard had come
In the heel of a shoe.

They had all heard the message,
They all knew the story.
They'd all do their part,
To get the fun going.

In through the base
Of my sliding glass door,
They all made their way,
One thousand or more.

Directly to work
They'd all decorate
To liven the house
And make it look great!

Shimmering spider webs
That's what they like.
They hung them from ceilings,
My drapes and the lights!

On the dining room table.,
they set up a stage
with a big band of spiders
'Cause swing is the rage.

On my two rocking chairs,
They'd all find a seat.
With plenty of movies
And popcorn to eat.

Out in my garden,
They'd have a great game
Of "Hide and Go Seek."
They'd play it all day.

In the bathroom, they found
A grand place to swim.
They all gathered 'round
Then each would jump in.

As long as they could,
While on my vacation,
They filled every room
'With their own jubilation.

They were having a circus
And laughing at clowns,
When, one day, the door
With a lock made a sound.

They heard people voices
"Oh no! They've come back!"
and hundreds of spiders
Took off, just like that.

But many remained,
They liked our small home.
So I calmly, but firmly, said
"Spiders must go!"

Day after day
I cleaned up their mess.
I even found webs
On my favorite dress.

A week had gone by
since the spiders' big party.
When I heard in my ear
A voice whisper, "Sorry."

I looked and I say
The small spider pouting.
"Things got out of hand,
While gone on your outing."

"I hadn't intended
To have them all over,
Just a small group,
A couple of brothers."

"But, my sister came too,
And all of my friends."
"Before I could stop them,
They all had come in."

I gave him a tissue
to wipe a small tear.
"Dear little spider,
There's no need to fear."

"I'll simply return you
Right here to the stone,
If you promise no parties,
You can call this place home."

He promised no parties
and to stay in the moss,
But I wonder sometimes
If his legs weren't crossed.

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Who Are These People?

by Susanne Riddle-Haslinger

I will always remember the first time my son saw the Three Stooges on television. He was about 5 years old, but still enough of a little guy to be wearing one-piece pajama jumpers, complete with covered feet.

It was on a snowy, winter Saturday night and my husband, myself and our son, Josh, were all snuggled up in front of a crackling fire and the television set. With popcorn and quilts surrounding us, we settled down for an evening of contentment to lazily watch Saturday night sitcoms and just being together.

With the two of us on the couch, Josh was curled up in his "blanky" in front of the television. After several comedy shows, we flipped the channels around and discovered a station running an evening marathon of the Three Stooges.

Both my husband and I, having grown up with these goofy guys, left the channel undisturbed and proceeded to giggle now and then at the antics of three incredibly stupid, yet funny comedians.

For the first half of the episode, we were not too aware of any particular movement or attitude of our son, but we began to notice his attentiveness to the television. At first, Josh was lying down all wrapped up in his blanket, but soon after the program began, he was sitting up and intently staring at the screen.

We soon lost our interest in the comedic trio and began to concentrate on the back of our son's body with fascination. Though we could not see his face, he changed positions several times and then finally settled with his knees folded beneath him and resting his hands on the tops of his legs, all the while still staring at the television.

My husband and I began to whisper to each other that maybe it was a mistake to let Josh watch these absurd and hilarious guys for, after all, their routines included a great deal of violence. As adults, we knew they were acting and not really gouging each others eyes out or actually ripping teeth with rusty pliers, but was this appropriate for a 5-year-old little boy, we wondered?

As if he could hear us, our son's body began to shake. His shoulders began to move up and down in a quivering motion and we sat upright in a bolting manner, fearing the worst. We called out our son's name, softly at first, and received no response. With subdued panic on our lips, we said our son's name once again, only louder, and still no response.

Though his body was moving in a similar manner of an old antique car just hand-cranked into motion, he had yet to shift his body position or move his head in any direction away from the television set.

Then we heard the sounds. At first, it was a soft and low sound, somewhat like a whimpering puppy looking for dinner. By now, my husband and I were sitting on the edge of the couch ready to spring to life-saving action.

Our first attempt was for one of us to find the remote control and turn the television off and to reach our son before he went into convulsions.

It was in those same moments that our son finally turned to face us. It had nothing to do with hearing us call out his name, nor did it have anything to do with a mysterious affliction of the nervous system.

Still in the same position, with his knees curled beneath his body, Josh turned his head around and looked at us. With his mouth open, tears running down his face and one little finger pointing to the television set, he tried to speak.

We realized at this point, that Josh was not crying tears of fear or horror at seeing three men pulverize each other with two by fours as we suspected. Instead, we realized that Josh was laughing in a way we had never seen him laugh before, a laughter that began in the bottom of his toes and worked its way up and was just escaping his being.

With his little finger still pointing at the TV, our son finally managed to gasp out a simple question made up of four little words, "Who are these people?"

Once his question was finally released from his mouth, Josh continued to laugh until his sides hurt and his mouth was aching, all the while with tears running down his face.

It never occurred to us that Josh had not seen the Three Stooges before and it did not occur to us at that time to question the possibility that he might not be old enough to understand this type of humor. We were fortunate in this respect, for though some children might have taken them seriously, our son found these three silly men to be just that, silly and funny.

As the years passed, our son never lost his love or delight in the zany three and, even to this day, in his early 20s, will watch them with the same amusement and often with the same reaction of belly laughs and tears, though he has seen the same episodes time and time again.

Even though they portrayed lame and idiotic characters and made viewers wince as they proceeded to smash each others' fingers with hammers or whacked one another over the heads with bricks, their actions were not condemned as true violence but, by most, accepted as unrealistic and rehearsed entertainment.

Today, if by chance, I happen to turn to a channel that is showing the now long-departed legends, I will stop for a while and watch the nuts that have mesmerized generation after generation. I will wince as I watch one of them bong another on the nose with a frying pan and I will laugh when I see all three laying on a bed and snoring in loud unison.

Most of all, I will close my eyes and let my mind drift back to so long ago when my son was just a little boy and saw the Three Stooges for the first time and with tears of laughter on his face asked, "Who are these people?"

1st Place Serious Poem

Echoes of the wind

by Beryl Jeffries

the wind dream comes
invisibly penetrating space and form
it comes in silver softness whispering
hardly visible somewhere there
in heavy heat lying burdened motionless
it is anticipation waiting
sometimes it billows warm
carrying the seedy life of spring to divine destinations
piercing sharp stinging needles iced with numbing coldness
it is the roaring raging voice of coming storm

a formless creator
swirling sand designing desert landscapes
sailing vessels over oceans
lifting waves to touch the sky
elfishly tickling the tips of flowers
dancing with flirtatous flowers
pushes the lake
soars the eagle
drifts the snow

it is the mystical sound of stillness
playing a planetary song

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M is for Mayor

Personal comments of Mayor Mary Sessom

Density of area to increase

The "d" word was used in a newspaper article this week. It is a word all folks who are happy with the city and our housing hate to hear – "density."

A recent report by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) clearly stated that 1,000,000 more people will be in this region by 2020 and if we don't do something now, we will have no open space left in the back country (sort of sounds like the Proposition B argument). Worse still, urban sprawl, rising housing costs and increasing traffic congestion are only beginning unless the 18 cities and the county act now to change things.

The report blames this future on our current housing policies. We want single family houses with large yards. We don't necessarily care if the housing is close to our jobs because traffic now is only a fraction of what it will be in 10 years. So, we make land use plans for our cities that are a recipe for disaster for all of us. There are no projects on the drawing board for bringing the needed water to this county, so, we are faced with toilet-to-tap proposals. Our current housing zoning allows for future development to be less dense than our existing zoning.

SANDAG made it clear that they are not talking about multifamily dwellings in our neighborhoods. The organization believes that if we utilize our current allowable density to its maximum (now, we build to less than the maximum) and we concentrate mixed use zoning (residential and commercial) around transit centers, we can accommodate these million new folks with only a modicum of change in our standard of living. So, what does this mean for Lemon Grove?

Lemon Grove already contains a transit center (trolley and bus), so there is no proposal to place another transit center in this city. Under our existing general plan, we are scheduled to grow to 28,800 over the next 20 years.

Under the highest density alternative proposed by SANDAG, our population would reach maximum at 30,300 over the next 20 years. Likewise, our total number of housing units would go from 10,000 to 10,500. This doesn't sound too bad, until one remembers that we have very little vacant land left to develop. More Miller's Ranches and Chatham Courts may be in our future. Fortunately, these are both nicely planned high density developments.

Theoretically, there will be individual benefits for our residents. Each person will spend at least eight fewer hours in a vehicle every month. The average household will buy 220 fewer gallons of gasoline each year and save $600 per year in total travel costs.

The SANDAG report sounds ominous, but does present some alternatives that might be acceptable to Lemon Grove. However, the whole region must act in a coordinated fashion to maintain our quality of life. This whole issue bears close watching.

Lemon Grove Fire Log

Nov. 1, 1998

8000 blk. Golden Ave. Unknown medical.
7500 blk. Broadway. Person down.
3500 blk. Grove St. Snake removal.
7900 blk. Broadway. Evaluate for sheriffs.
2500 blk. Skyline Dr. Wires down.
Massachusetts Ave./Waite Dr. Motorcycle accident.

Nov. 2, 1998

1600 blk. Bakersfield St. Seizure.
2300 blk. Berry St. Abdominal pains.
1800 blk. Bakersfield St. Laceration.
7300 blk. Sarajayne Ln. Alarm residential.

Nov. 3, 1998

1800 blk. Dartmoor Dr. Difficulty breathing.
6900 blk. Broadway. Fainting.
7500 blk. Broadway. Auto vs. pedestrian.
1600 blk. Drexel Dr. Fall.
2200 blk. Massachusetts Ave. attempted suicide.
7600 blk. Lawford Pl. Overdose.
7600 blk. Lawford Pl. Chest pains.

Nov. 4, 1998

1400 blk. Bakersfield St. Dizzy.
3200 blk. Olive St. Medical aid.
2000 blk. Skyline Dr. Seizure.

WEATHER

The following information was provided by the National Weather Service.

		High	Low
November	16	69	43
November	17	68	55
November	18	68	41
November	19	72	47
November	20	78	44
November	21	78	44
November	22	78	44

The Lemon Grove Review

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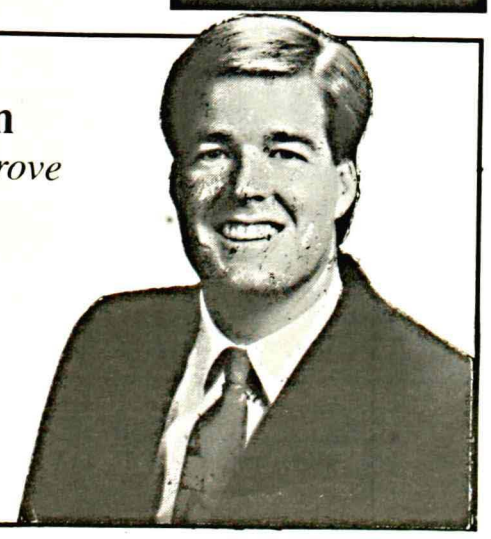


Obituary

Naoma E. Faucher

Naoma Faucher, 82, of Lemon Grove, died Nov. 24, 1998.

She was born Jan. 15, 1916 in Cleveland, Ohio. Naoma worked as a post office clerk with her husband, Francis ("Frenchy") Faucher, former postmaster, at the Lemon Grove Post Office for 24 years. Mrs. Faucher was a member of the Lemon Grove Kiwanis "Kiwani-Annes", and was an ardent and faithful member of the Lemon Grove Historical Society, serving as museum director and archivist.

Survivors include her husband, Francis; sons Jerome F. Faucher of Lemon Grove, Dr. Robert R. Faucher of Seattle, Wash.; daughter-in-law (wife of pre-deceased son Thomas Faucher) Sandra Faucher of El Cajon; and sister Margaret Vowles of El Cajon.

Visitation will be from 3 - 7 p.m. on Friday at Conrad Lemon Grove Mortuary, 7387 Broadway in Lemon Grove. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Lemon Grove Luteran Church, 2055 Skyline Dr. in Lemon Grove.

Community Notes

Chamber to hold 2,000 + event at meeting

The Lemon Grove Chamber of Commerce is holding a "Chamber 2,000 +" holiday event in conjunction with their business-to-business mixer from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 9 at the Lemon Grove Senior Center, 8235 Mt. Vernon in Lemon Grove. The highlight of the event is a drawing for $2,000 cash, with a second-chance drawing for $500, and every other ticket drawn paying $25. There will be food, entertainment and a silent auction for many other prizes. For raffle tickets of other information, please call Mary England at 466-1111, Trish Telles at 469-2109, or Jim Butcher at 469-957.

Church to hold Christmas Auction

The Lemon Grove United Church of Christ will hold its annual Christmas Auction from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Dec. 5th at 2770 Glebe Rd. in Lemon Grove. Auction items include Christmas decorations, gift baskets, hand-crafted items including a full-sized quilt, theater/museum tickets and many others. Items can be previewed beginning at 10 a.m., and the live auction will begin at noon. Sandwiches and snacks will be available for purchase. For more information, please call 594-4121 or 466-0503.

San Miguel Head Start taking applications

San Miguel Head Start is now taking applications for its free preschool comprehensive development program. Children must be between the ages of three and five, and not eligible for Kindergarten. The program incudes complete services for all children, including those with disabilities. Verification of income, child's shot record and birth certificate will be required upon registration. Call 460-6611 for more information.

First Friday Films to show 'Driving Miss Daisy'

First Friday Films, a new film and discussion group presented by the Lemon Grove Congregational United Church of Christ will show "Driving Miss Daisy" at 7 p.m. on Dec. 4. The group meets on the first Friday of each month in the church lounge. Anyone who enjoys movies and would like a chance to view and then discuss them with others is invited to attend. There is no charge, and refreshments are provided. Call 594-4121 or 466-0503 for more information.

Traveling art exhibit set for Grossmont College

"Who Can I Run To?," a traveling art exhibit of the Through the Eyes of Children project, is coming to Grossmont College for a special performance at 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday and public viewing 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Tuesday through Thursday at the Student Center, 8800 Grossmont College Drive in El Cajon.

"Who Can I Run To?" is an interactive art exhibit created by San Diego teens to communicate their views on the abuse they see in relationships.

The event is free and is open to the general public. For more information, please call 272-5777, Ext. 27.

Grossmont College guitarists to hold recital

Guitarists Fred Benedetti and Robert Wetzel will play selected works by Torelli, Carulli, Soler, Ernst and Beethoven at a faculty recital presented by the Grossmont College Guitar Guild at 8 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Grossmont College Fine Arts Recital Hall, 8800 Grossmont College Drive in El Cajon.

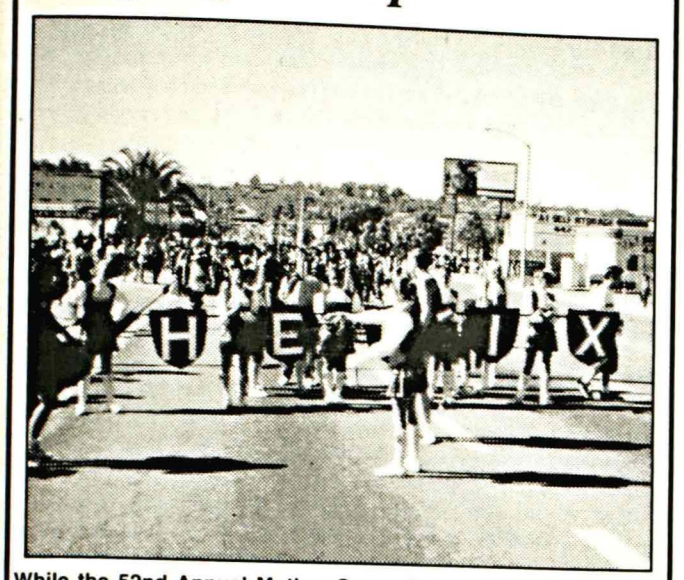
General admission is $5, with tickets costing $3 for children, students, seniors and military. For more information, please call 644-7255.

College to present chorales at Santa Sophia

"The Mass" chorale will be performed by the Grossmont College Master Chorale and Chamber Orchestra at 8 p.m. on Dec. 4 at Santa Sophia Catholic Church, 9800 San Juan St. in Spring Valley.

The concert will be conducted by Music Director Randall Tweed. Tweed has been conducting opera, symphony and chorus throughout Southern and Baja California since joining the music faculty of Grossmont in 1986. Musical selections include DeVictoria's "Motet O Magnum" and "Mass O Magnum Mysterium," J.S. Bach's "Miss Brevis in F Major BWV, 233" and PDQ Bach's "Missa Hilarious S. N20."

Keeping in step



While the 52nd Annual Mother Goose Parade is now a thing of the past - at least until next year - music in parade cadence remains in demand. The Helix High School Marching Band was happy to oblige.

Photo by Ninette Sosa

CCC suggests holiday safety tips

The holidays are a busy time of year for many lines of business, including retail, restaurants, entertainment and travel. Unfortunately, it's also a busy time for thieves and the police. With people carrying around so much cash and merchandise, especially in dark parking lots, robbers know that the number of vulnerable people walking around is at its peak. Because of this, Credit Counselors of California offer the following suggestions for a safe holiday season.

One of the key elements in your favor is that, for the most part, thieves are looking for victims who will be easy targets. Conversely, they avoid people who they think will prove difficult to steal from.

It is not advisable to confront someone who wants to steal your money or packages, or even your car. Remember that things can be replaced. If you should find yourself facing a mugger or thief, the best thing you can do is cooperate and give them what they want.

You can discourage thieves without the bravado of confrontation simply by not making yourself an easy target. Shop with a few friends and park in well-lit areas that are near the entrance to the mall or store your plan to shop at. This can be difficult during the crowded shopping season, but it can be done if you drive around a little until a space near the door or under a lamp opens up. Also, call several malls in your area and ask if they have security riding around the parking lots after dark.

Once you're out of your car, just take the cash, checkbook or credit card you may need in a wallet you keep near your person. One of the easiest ways to steal your money is to run up from behind you and yank your purse right off your shoulder. By keeping your valuables concealed, thieves are likely to move on to another potential victim.

Another less violent way people are victimized during the holidays is through fraud and trickery. Again, the thief relies on the fact that most people simply don't have their guard up while they're out shopping.

An example: most people, if they had $10,000 cash in their pocket and were shopping in a mall, would guard that cash pretty closely. Yet, most people think nothing of setting a credit card with a $10,000 credit limit on a counter and then turning their back on it.

You should guard your credit card number and your checkbook as carefully as you would an amount of cash equal to the credit limit on your card or the amount of money in your checking account.

Remember that the key to the money in your credit card is the number and the expiration date, and most credit card receipts contain this information. So it is equally important to keep an eye on what happens to those receipts. Anyone who uses a credit card should create a file at home for credit card receipts. Not only does it keep them out of other people's hands; it could be handy if there's ever a billing dispute. And don't forget about the carbons you may get. Most retailers use a carbonless system for credit cards these days, but there are still a few holdouts. Make sure you keep them and dispose of them yourself.

Grossmont Center gets prepared for the holidays

The holiday season at Grossmont Center begins tomorrow, with a variety of special services and entertainment for customers.

Santa and Mrs. Claus, Rudolph, Frosty the Snowman and a host of Santa's elves will ride into Grossmont Center on an antique fire truck at 11 a.m. Friday.

There will be music provided by Premier Brass, and free fire truck rides from the time Santa and guests are dropped off until noon.

A tree-lighting ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. on Wednesday at the Macy's Court area of Grossmont Center, with food and drink provided for all who attend the co-sponsored event with Grossmont Hospital Hospice.

KFMB TV Channel 8 reporter, Liz Pursell will be the MC for the evening and Grossmont Center will provide refreshments and entertainment.

Mrs. Claus will be offering free storytelling to children of all ages from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. every Saturday until Dec. 19. in the food court.

Santa will be available for visits and photos all week long starting at noon on Friday, in his shop also at the food court. While visiting Santa, shoppers can have their packages wrapped at the Davis/Grossmont YMCA gift wrap counter at the south end of the food court.

Between 2 and 5 p.m. on Friday and continuing every other weekend until Christmas, the center will be filled with the sounds of holiday music by the Full Measure Carolers with their handbell show (Fridays), the Jackstraws and Peace on Earth Carolers (Saturdays), and the brass sounds of Select Brass (Sundays).

Grossmont Center is located at 5500 Grossmont Center Dr. in La Mesa.

Call 265-2900, ext. 15 for more information.

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Assigned File No 98026887
The Name of the Business:
C.W. POOLS
located at: 1274 Clarendon St. in: El Cajon, CA 92021 is hereby registered by the following owner:
CRAIGE WALKER
1274 CLARENDON ST.
EL CAJON, CA 92021
This business is conducted by: an Individual
The transaction of business began on: N/A
Signature of Registrant:
CRAIGE WALKER
This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/ County Clerk of San Diego County on OCT 21, 1998
Lemon Grove Review
Nov. 5, 12, 19 & 26, 1998

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
Assigned File No 1998-026888
In reference to the activity doing business as:
SPARKLE POOLS
Located at: 1174 REDWOOD AVE., EL CAJON, CA 92021
The following registrant has abandoned use of the fictitious business name
CRAIGE WALKER
1174 REDWOOD AVE
EL CAJON, CA 92021
The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in San Diego County on Feb. 24 1994 and assigned File No. 94006186
Signature of registrant
CRAIGE WALKER
This statement was filed with the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on OCT 21 1998
Lemon Grove Review
Nov. 5, 12, 19 & 26, 1998

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Assigned File No 98028474
The Name of the Business:
BIG JAM ENGRAVING
located at: 925 Elkelton Blvd. in: Spring Valley, CA 91977 is hereby registered by the following owners:
JASON BLAIR GILCREASE
925 ELKELTON BLVD
SPRING VALLEY, CA 91977
ANNE MARIE GILCREASE
925 ELKELTON BLVD
SPRING VALLEY, CA 91977
This business is conducted by: Individuals - Husband and Wife
The transaction of business began on: N/A
Signature of Registrant
JASON B. GILCREASE
This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/ County Clerk of San Diego County on NOV 09, 1998
Lemon Grove Review
Nov. 12, 19, 26 & Dec. 3, 1998

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Assigned File No 98028882
The Names of the Business:
1. ISLANDER GIFTS
2. CALIFORNIA FRAGRANCES & ACCESSORIES
located at: 16079 Big Springs Way in: San Diego, 92127 is hereby registered by the following owner:
GEORGETTE CAROLYN TAGAMI
16079 BIG SPRINGS WAY
SAN DIEGO, CA 92127
This business is conducted by: an Individual
The transaction of business began on: 8/26/97
Signature of Registrant
GEORGETTE C. TAGAMI
This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/ County Clerk of San Diego County on NOV 13, 1998
Lemon Grove Review
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Assigned File No 98029020
The Name of the Business:
1ST CLASS LIMOUSINE
located at: 105 West 35th St., Suite C in: National City 91950 is hereby registered by the following owner:
DEANE HUNTRESS
4733 FELTON ST
SAN DIEGO, CA 92116
This business is conducted by: an Individual
The transaction of business began on: N/A
Signature of Registrant
DEANE HUNTRESS
This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/ County Clerk of San Diego County on NOV 16, 1998
Lemon Grove Review
Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 1998

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Assigned File No 98029313
The Name of the Business:
MONEY MATTERS
located at: 1640 10th Ave. #107 in: San Diego 92101 is hereby registered by the following owner:
KEVIN WHELAN
1640 10TH AVE. #107
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
This business is conducted by: an Individual
The transaction of business began on: 7/1/98
Signature of Registrant
KEVIN WHELAN
This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/ County Clerk of San Diego County on NOV 18, 1998
Lemon Grove Review
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Assigned File No 98029219
The Name of the Business:
BADDTOYS
located at: 18135 Lincoln St. in: Lemon Grove 91945 is hereby registered by the following owner:
LEONARD JAMES ENOS
8135 LINCOLN ST
LEMON GROVE 91945
This business is conducted by: an Individual
The transaction of business began on: 11-15-98
Signature of Registrant
LEONARD J. ENOS
This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/ County Clerk of San Diego County on NOV 17, 1998
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Commentary

Step right up

by Bob Burns

I heard a very impassioned plea the other day for more involvement by members of a volunteer organization.

It sees that there was a perception that not everyone in the group was "pulling enough weight." In other words there were individuals who did far less of the work needed than others. It had to do with their "getting the glory" or the recognition that accrued to the organization. It was just not fair for the "slackers" to get a free ride in the acclaim department while others worked many more hours volunteering their time.

Certainly we have all experienced frustration in other groups of volunteers. We may put in lots of time while others contribute little effort, and it seems "unfair." Whether it be the Kiwanis, Rotary, PTA, VFW or our own senior patrol, it will always be that a few do more than the rest. In most churches it is a fact that around 20% of the membership supports the entire congregation with money and volunteer efforts. This covers all denominations, too, by the way.

Now when I refer to volunteers, I mean those who are totally without any monetary compensation, nada, zip, nothing. They like to boast that they get triple time if worked on holidays, and they do - three times zero equals zero. the satisfaction of doing for others, being of value and devotion to a cause is very real, though of intangible value. It certainly must have immense value considering the vast numbers that swell the ranks of volunteers.

But back to the "slackers" and the frustration caused by the unequal hours of work done by members of any organization. I would submit that there are no slackers. Any one who participates in volunteer programs would not be there at all if they were. Only, in my opinion, is a person a slacker who just does nothing for anyone, no way, no how.

The truth is that volunteers who are so bent, are always in several such groups. A member of our senior volunteer patrol will also be volunteering similar efforts in his or her church, service club or scouting. The list is long where our citizens are putting in long hours coaching little league, mentoring or working in rest homes and hospitals. Each works in their own way, doing what they do best and allotting as much time to each as they can. Very often we find that these efforts are excessive and the volunteers' health may suffer accordingly.

We do not know what our fellow volunteer has on his or her plate. We tend to begin to think that our group is the only one in the world and wonder why the members are not more involved. Of course this is seldom true, so we must be thankful for the time spent and not make arbitrary judgments. Each knows the constraints on their time, physical energy and wealth. So, lets not condemn anyone for not doing more. We should thank them profusely for what they do, for they are truly special people.

Now what is also very true is that there is lots more opportunity for people to get involved as volunteers. And if it were better known how much personal satisfaction and pleasure one can derive from such work, we would have even more.

Like the little old lady once said, "Try it, you'll like it."

PG Perspectives

Positively PG

by Phillip Giannangeli

You've got to accentuate the positive. Eliminate the negative. Latch on to the affirmative. And don't mess with Mr. In Between. Those aren't my words: there lyrics from a by gone era. They could, however, be the center piece of a philosophy that could guide us all.

Take a look around. There's plenty of the positive to accentuate. If you're a Democrat, Newt's gone. If you're a Republican, Newt's gone. That's a real positive to accentuate. The Republicans also got two, not necessarily burning, Bushes that are letting off quite a glow. I'll bet they'll do a lot of accentuating there. And although the Western skies over California are sometimes gray, another kind of Grayness is not bothering the Democrats in the least. So, the Democrats won, the Republicans won, and Jesse Ventura won. And all of them won without having to gouge the opponents' eyes, more or less. That's a positive worthy of accentuation. Everyone and anyone with a political bent has something positive to accentuate this post-election season.

Further on that accentuate the positive front, is the ozone hole. Even though it's still there, we can accentuate the positive by noting that it could be completely closed in twenty years if we all get together and protect our environment a little more carefully. That could and should happen. Finally, how can we not accentuate the positive after seeing John Glenn step off the space shuttle and wave.

Eliminating the negative is also good advice, but it needs to be understood with an important caveat. Eliminating what one considers negative doesn't mean engaging in violence. It also does not mean trashing the people with whom you disagree. And it certainly does not include the killing of people with whom you might have a conflict The way to eliminate most negatives is by taking them in hand, cleaning them up, polishing them to a shinny luster and putting them back into play. Take that empty lot or boarded-up building—hear that El Cajon?—and haul away the debris and search out any local Bob Villas we might have in our midst. Plant some flowers too. People all over the country do that. Ordinary people take eyesores and turn them into eye-catchers. It can be done with places, things, and people. Especially people if we'll just take the time to try. Besides, a negative attitude is so much more trouble to maintain than a positive one.

Latching on to the affirmative takes a little practice. At times, that affirmative can be going by at a pretty good clip. That's how affirmative stays the way it is; not slowing down and becoming negative. But if you're on the lookout, and you have fast hands, you can grab ahold of affirmative as it shoots by and put your mark on it. Then all you have to do is hang on. Find a success and climb on board. That's the best way to latch on to the affirmative.

The admonition not to mess with Mr. In Between is something that should not be limited to song lyrics only . Those Mr. In Betweens are always going to cause trouble. That's just the nature of this beast. Being stuck with Mr. In Between is even worse than choosing the wrong side. In Between will split you. Cause you pain. So, whatever you do, don't mess with Mr. In Between.

Four steps. Accentuate, eliminate, latch on to, and don't mess with. If you can't find anything positive to accentuate or anything negative to eliminate, you're just not looking in the right places. Latching on to the affirmative might take a little practice, but you can do it. As to Mr. In Between, watch out. He's always looking for a way to mess you up.

Reel thoughts

Eeek! Not another bug movie!

by Betty Jo Tucker

To paraphrase Paul Revere's famous warning, "The bugs are coming! The bugs are coming!"

Spiders, caterpillars, ladybugs, butterflies, grasshoppers and ants galore fill the big screen in the Walt Disney/Pixar computer animated feature, "A Bug's Life."

These insects assume human personalities and speak with the voices of such stars as Kevin Spacey, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Dave Foley, Madeline Kahn, David Hyde Pierce and Denis Leary.

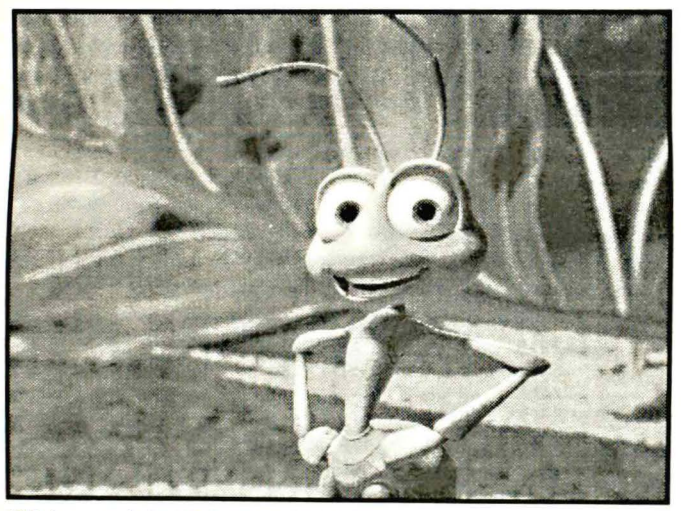
Released so soon after the similar "Antz," this more appropriate children's film could run into trouble at the box office.

Like "Antz," "A Bug's Life" focuses on a hero ant who saves the day. In this case, the threat to the ant colony comes from without, not from its own evil general as depicted in the earlier movie.

"A Bug's Life" follows Flik (Foley), a bumbling nonconformist ant, and his struggle against a horde of greedy grasshoppers menacing Ant Island.

Each summer this lazy grasshopper gang, led by the villainous Hopper (Spacey), swoops down on the ant colony to devour a large portion of the ants' harvest.

After deciding to search for outside help, Flik meets up with a troupe of bug performers recently fired from a flea circus. Mistaking the group for a band of courageous warriors, he recruits them in his fight against the grasshoppers.



Flik is an original thinker, out of step with the rest of the more traditionally-minded bugs on Ant Island. He unwittingly triggers a major confrontation with a gang of greedy grasshoppers in "A Bug's Life," the all-new computer-animated 'epic of miniature proportions' from Walt Disney Pictures and Pixar Animation Studios.

Much of the film's humor results from these spirited circus insects. In one hilarious scene, they accidentally destroy an entire arena with their misconceived fiery finale.

Young children should enjoy "A Bug's Life," but many adults will feel the film runs about 20 minutes too long. They may also miss those rousing musical numbers expected in a Disney animated offering. Granted, the background score by Randy Newman ('Toy Story") is just right, but why not include some singing and dancing by various insect characters? That worked great in "James and the Giant Peach."

Billed as "an epic of miniature proportions," this movie represents the most sophisticated application of computer animation to date.

It is directed by John Lasseter, an Oscar-winner for his contributions to 'Toy Story" and co-directed by Andrew Stanton, screenwriting Oscar-nominee for the same film.

Even though "A Bug's Life" and 'Antz" are quite entertaining, some moviegoers won't want to be bugged like this again for a very long time.

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The sounds of love

"Love Song" is one of five "greeters" statues that welcome visitors to Barona Casino along the Founders Way entrance, and were awarded an "Orchid" award in the category of fine arts at the 1998 "Orchids & Onions Awards" event held Nov. 19.

Don't keep your profundity to yourself! Send your letter to the editor today!

Everyone can help to drive food drives

The San Diego Food Bank (SDFB) has adopted the goal of raising half a million pounds of food this holiday season. SDFB is looking for individuals, civic groups and businesses who are willing to organize and sponsor food drives.

"Our goal for this holiday season is to feed over 335,000 meals to needy San Diego families," said Neal Smith, associate director. "Community food drives bring in over 43 percent of our holiday stock. We really need the help of individuals as well as corporations and businesses."

Planning a holiday food drive is easy and is a great way to give back to the community. SDFB will provide food collection barrels as well as collection boxes. Furthermore, SDFB will drop off the receptacles at the beginning of your drive and pickup at the conclusion.

"We really try to make it easy for organizers. All they need to do is get the word out and start collecting the food," said Rosie Campos, holiday food drive coordinator. "It really is an easy way to make a difference during the holiday season."

If you don't have time to organize a food drive, cash donations are equally important. SDFB is also looking for volunteers to help in the office or warehouse.

Schools, churches or businesses interested in organizing a food drive or volunteering, are urged to call the Food Bank at 523-8811.

The San Diego Food Bank (SDFB) was established in 1977 by Neighborhood House Association.

The mission is to combat hunger in San Diego County by soliciting, collecting and distributing donated and purchased food to those in need.

SDFB provides food to more than 500 charitable, non-profit agencies, as well as sponsoring programs such as Soup Kitchens, Senior Brown Bag, USDA Food Commodities and Commodities For Women and Children Supplemental Food Program.

Letters about Literature contest at hand

The deadline for students to enter the annual Letters about Literature contest is Dec. 18. The contest is run each year by the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress and coordinated at the state level by the California State Library Foundation.

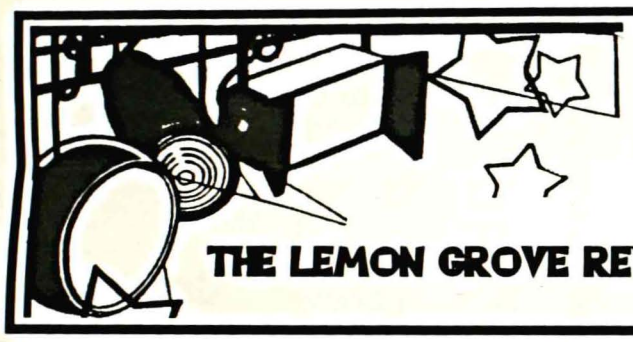
Participating students must select a book, short story or poem about which they have strong feelings. Each student must write a letter to the author of the book, short story or poem, explaining how it changed the student's way of thinking about the world.

The contest is judged at two levels: Level I is for students in grades four through seven, and Level II is for students in grades eight through 12. Students in Level I may write letters of 500 words or fewer. At Level II, the letters may be of 1,000 words or fewer.

The winners in California will receive $500 U.S. Savings Bonds and recognition by the state Librarian, Dr. Kevin Starr. Winning writers at the national level will receive $1,000 U.S. Savings Bonds.

Schools wishing to participate may obtain copies of the contest rules from the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress or the California State Library Foundation in Sacramento.

Students entering the contest are encouraged to think about a character or an event in the story and to write a letter describing what they think about that character or event. For more information call Robert Daseler at the state library, (916) 654-0108.



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